

be deferred to future years due to lack of available funding.

In addition, the Harbor Fairness Act of 2011 would require the Administration to identify future allocations of operation and maintenance funds, on a harbor-by-harbor basis. This information will allow commercial harbors to more accurately plan future operation and maintenance expenditures, both short-term and long-term, and more efficiently make critical decisions on the most efficient way to maintain safe commercial shipping at local harbors.

The central focus of the Harbor Fairness Act of 2011 is the requirement that expenditures for maintenance dredging is equitably allocated among all eligible commercial harbors. To accomplish this, the legislation requires the Secretary of the Army: (1) to utilize the information obtained from the assessment of dredging needs; (2) to consider the national and regional significance of harbor operation and maintenance; and (3) to make allocation decisions on factors beyond simply the amount of cargo tonnage transiting through a commercial harbor.

While the Corps is completing its assessment of national maintenance dredging needs, this legislation establishes a short-term, minimum allocation for maintenance dredging at midsize and small commercial harbors. The 40 percent guaranteed allocation for mid-size and small commercial harbors for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 represents only a modest increase in the allocation for these harbors over the previous two fiscal years (33.7 percent in fiscal year 2012 and 33.4 percent for fiscal year 2011), in part to address the disproportionate backlog faced by mid-size and small commercial harbors.

In addition, this mandatory allocation of 40 percent is temporary, and will be replaced in fiscal year 2014 by an allocation based on the actual maintenance dredging needs of all harbors, as identified by the Corps.

Mr. Speaker, the Harbor Fairness Act of 2011 recognizes the fundamental importance of all commercial harbors to the national, regional, and local economies. It calls for fairness in the allocation of critical maintenance dredging funds among large-, moderate-, and small-commercial harbors. But, most of all, it recognizes the importance of the nation's ports to America and to American workers. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this very important legislation.

#### RECOGNIZING THE WINNERS OF THE 2011 ELLY DOYLE PARK SERVICE AWARDS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2011*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2011 Elly Doyle Park Service Awards. These awards, sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority Board in cooperation with the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board, recognize individuals and organizations for their extraordinary contributions to our environment and public park system.

Fairfax County is regarded as one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, and raise a family, and our nationally-

recognized park system has played a key role in that distinction. Our community has a strong commitment to promoting and preserving our environment, including our public parks and outdoor spaces. Each year thousands of volunteers donate their talents and time to protect our natural and cultural resources and enhance public educational and recreational services.

The Elly Doyle Service Awards were established in 1988 in honor of former board member Ellamae Doyle's many years of outstanding service. In addition, recipients have also been named for the 2011 Eakin Philanthropy Award, named in honor of the Eakin family who donated the first parcels of parkland to the Park Authority over 50 years ago, and the 2011 Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award, named after the late Sally Ormsby who was a champion of environmental stewardship. I congratulate each of the 2011 recipients of these prestigious awards.

2011 Eakin Philanthropy Award Recipients: Craig and Belinda Stevens for their generous financial support of numerous Park Foundation projects; and

Cox Communications, for their ongoing funding of the Summer Entertainment Series.

2011 Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award Recipient:

Stella Koch, in recognition of the central role she has played in many environmental issues including development of policies and preservation of our natural resources.

2011 Elly Doyle Service Award Recipients:

Friends of the Hidden Oaks Nature Center—For their exceptional efforts in supporting programs, activities, and facilities at the Hidden Oaks Nature Center in Annandale.

Charles and Jacque Olin—For the establishment of the Analemma Society in 1998 and their efforts in creating Observatory Park at Turner Farm.

Chris Robichaux—For creating the Mason District Dog Opportunity Group in 2000 which worked with Park Authority staff to identify suitable parkland for an off-leash dog area.

2011 Elly Doyle Special Recognition Awards Recipients: Jim Franks, Lynne Glasser, John Hopkins, James Jamison, and Judy Kirby, and student honoree, Morgan Volpe.

I also commend the 18 individuals who comprise the Class of 2011 Outstanding Volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating and thanking these honorees for their demonstrated commitment to our open spaces and public parks. Fairfax County is able to enjoy a high quality of life because of the efforts of these individuals and they are deserving of our praise and appreciation.

#### HONORING DONNA GORITY

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2011*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and mark the retirement of Blair County Commissioner Donna GORITY. Donna is a friend and colleague whose work has left an indelible mark on her community. It has been an honor to work with her over her extensive career in the Commissioner's office

to help improve the lives of our shared constituents. I join many other local elected officials, friends and neighbors in wishing her well in her retirement.

It is difficult to fit in all of the things Donna has accomplished over her 28 years in public office. First and foremost, Donna has the distinction of serving as the first female member of the Blair County Board of Commissioners. Donna has long been known for being a champion for children and health and human services issues throughout the county. Over her time in office, Donna developed a track record as a strong advocate for funding the county's Human Services Office, which provides support for homeless families and juvenile delinquency prevention.

In addition, Donna has been deeply involved in a program that is also very important to me: Operation Our Town in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Operation Our Town is a successful partnership between businesses and communities throughout Central Pennsylvania whose mission is to rid neighborhoods of drugs and drug-related violent crime. Operation Our Town completes its mission through community policing and proven treatment and prevention techniques. I am proud to have had her as an ally in applying Operation Our Town's techniques to Altoona.

Donna has been the recipient of a number of awards over her career. She was recognized as part of the "Outstanding Young Women in America" in 1978, was named Boss of the Year in 1986 by the American Business Women's Association, won the President's Award by the County Commissioner's Association of Pennsylvania in 1994, received the Leadership Award from the Blair County NAACP in 2003 and the Lifetime Achievement Award this year by Blair Countians for Drug Free Communities. Again, these are but a few of her accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Donna GORITY on her successful 28 years in public office and wish her well in her retirement. She will leave Blair County's government and the people it represents in better shape than when she found it. In the end, I believe that should be the goal of every public servant. Without question, Donna accomplished that goal.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2011*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 913, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

#### IN RECOGNITION OF REV. DR. KENNY SMITH AND HIS 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2011*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Reverend Dr.